of 30 per cent. All the supply side policy measures taken so far are likely to bring about moderation in the inflation rate. The Government remains vigilant in ensuring adequate availability of essential commodities, particularly, rice, wheat, sugar and edible oils and will comfortable foreign exchange reserves.

Recruitment in Banks for N. E Region

1079. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of manpower recruitment from North-East Region in banks;

(b) whether percentage of Assam and other North-Eastern States is low;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the share of North-Eastern region in recruitment in banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) The statistical information in the manner asked for is not available. However, recruitments by Banking Service Recruitment Boards are made on all India basis and candidates from any part of the country are eligible to appear in the recruitment exercises conducted by each of 15 Banknig Service Recruitment Boards located in various parts of the country. Selections are made purely on merit and no reservation/share is earmarked for any region|state. As far as North-East region is concerned. there is a Banking Service Recruitment Board loacted at Guwahati which conducts examinations to provide candidates in clerical cadre to all the banks for their offices operating in that region. It also recruits officers for the United Bank of India.

Gap between total txpenditure and current revenue

1080. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rising gap between total expenditure and current revenue over the last decade has set in motion a vicious cycle of increased borrowings, higher Debt and increase in interest payments;

(b) If so, steps taken to break this viciousc cycle; and

(c) what have been the results so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) The rising fiscal deficit over the eighties contributed to the rising trend in debt.

(b) Fiscal deficit has been reduced from 8.3 percent in 1990-91 to 6.7 percent of GDP in 1994-95 (RE) and 5.5 percent of GDP in 1995-96 (BE). This decline is due to reduction in expenditure on subsidies, defence and capital expenditure net of interest payments as percentage of GDP.

(c) Total outstanding liabilities which have been rising since 1980-81 has been stabilised. It is budgeted to be about 57.5 percent of GDP in 1995-96 (BE).

Recommendations of tax reforms committee

1081. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the major recommendations of the Tax Reforms Committee;

(b) how far these have been implemented; and